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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Austria/USSR

DATE DISTR. 7 February 1949

SUBJECT Conversations Between Austrian Chancellor
 Dr. Leopold Figl and Soviet Deputy Commissioner
 Colonel General A.S. Zheltov

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(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF IN

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 50X1-HUM

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1. In a meeting with Austrian Chancellor Leopold Figl on 7 January 1949, Soviet Deputy Commissioner for Austria, Colonel General A.S. Zheltov, firmly demanded the payment of 120,000,000 schillings for 1948 occupation costs in addition to the payment of military expenses estimated at 70,000,000 - 80,000,000 schillings.
2. When Figl stated that the Austrian treasury could not possibly meet this demand, Zheltov announced that the Soviets could also demand payment for the use of booty cars by the Austrian State Railways.
3. Zheltov refused to agree with Figl's complaint that the Soviet provincial and district commanders in Burgenland and Lower Austria were obstructing or misregarding provincial laws. He added that the Chancellor must surely be aware that the Austrian constitution has not yet been fully recognized by the Allies.
4. The Soviet Deputy Commissioner stated bitterly that, since the Austrians had approached his government over his head, this was no longer his concern, and that all future requests should be conveyed through the proper diplomatic channels.

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Comments:

- a. The Austrian Government regards the demand in paragraph 2 above as a bargaining point intended to soften its attitude toward the demand for payments reported in paragraph 1.
- b. The remarks in paragraph 3 in connection with Soviet administrative changes in the Mühlviertel area suggest the possibility of a calculated plan to establish an independent Soviet-sponsored government later, with the excuse that the provincial administration is unconstitutional. However, there is no direct evidence as yet to support this supposition.)

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NO CHANGE in Class ☐

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